

Looking Closer Viewfinder Activity

We've all been spending a lot of time in our homes and looking at the same stuff all the time can start to feel a little boring. Many artists throughout history have felt the same way, but they used this as inspiration to look at people, objects, and places in new and interesting ways.

One tool that they used to help them was a **Viewfinder**. A viewfinder is an easy-to-make tool that helps artists look closely at small details and create compositions, by allowing them to focus on only one part of the world around them (kind of like looking through a small window!).

Let's try looking closer and practice our art appreciation skills!

Instructions:

1. You will need to make your own viewfinder! (see how-to instructions below)
2. Once you have your viewfinder, it's time to go on an art element hunt in your home! Using your viewfinder, search your home to find objects with:

Different kinds of **texture**:

- bumpy rough smooth soft

Next, try to find objects with different types of **lines**:

- thin thick zigzag wavy straight

Then, find objects with different **shapes**:

- circle square rectangle triangle oval

Note: try checking off each element when you find it so you can keep track of your progress

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3. When you have found objects with the different elements above, CHOOSE ONE object and **let's practice looking closer!**

Once you have chosen your object, spend time looking at it from far away:

- Stare at it for a while.
- Try squinting and moving your head to see the object at different angles.

Pull out your **viewfinder** and look again!

- Think about **texture**, **colour**, and **shape**: What do you see? Does the object look different?
- Can you figure out what it is made of or how it was made?
- What words or ideas come to mind when you look at it?
- Does it make you wonder anything?
- If it had feelings, what emotions would it have?

Make some notes of your observations:

4. After a few minutes of looking at your object from far away, walk toward your object while looking through your viewfinder (be careful not to trip!). Get up close to your object and try focusing on one small area, or a small part of the object.

Remember your observations from before, and think about how the object looks now:

- Does the object change or look different as you move closer?
- Does it look the same or different through the viewfinder?
- What details did you miss from far away? What details did you lose from up close?

Write down one change you noticed from your observations:
